757 patient. The juice of a certain plant is put into the cavities of teeth to stop toothache. The juice of boiled roots and leaves are taken internally for stomach disorders. One day I observed a woman pressing her foot over her husband's forehead as he lay on the ground. The heel was placed over the eye and she exerted considerable pressure. She was doing this to cure her husband's headache. These nonmagical practices are known to everyone. Some herbal medicines, however, are known only to the shamans and are used under the directions of the curers.

● 778 534 The sacred flutes (*udiovin*) are associated with childbirth, the culture hero, agriculture, and chieftainship. As these flutes are similar in appearance to the sacred flutes of the Parecí, among whom they have great significance, it is possible that the Nambicuara obtained them originally from the Parecí. The flutes are about 2 feet long with four holes at the lower end and are made from a jointless piece of bamboo. When the band settles down near their manioc fields they build a special hut for the flutes, but when they are wandering around, the flutes are hidden in the [784] woods. Women are not permitted to see the flutes, and if one should accidently see them her stomach would swell and she would become ill. But what appears more important is the fact that the flutes poison people who do not treat them well. Yet, as only the chief and the head shamans play them this would mean that the flutes are the symbols of authority representing the men in whom power is invested. The flutes, four of which should be in every band, do not represent a spirit but appear to be more like fetishes. Boiled manioc juice is poured into them and they are offered maize and broiled meat.

241 775 533 The *udiovin* are played after the fields have been planted and again at harvest time. After planting, the men gather into the flute hut and play the flutes and sing the scriptures. The ghosts of the dead participate and, along with the flutes, are offered food and drink. At harvest time another ceremony called *hailtsakidaiu* is performed at night during which the flutes are played and special songs are sung. The following day the whole band participates in a dance. The ghosts also take part in this ceremony.

534 In addition to the *udiovin* flutes, the Nambicuara have a smaller four-step bamboo flute called